

Cross Party Group Older People, Age and Ageing

Wednesday 30th September 2019 13.00 - 14.00

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

AGM Minutes

1. Present

MSPs: Sandra White; Jeremy Balfour

Organisation	Name
Royal College of Speech & Language Therapy	Claire Campbell, Robert Macbean
Sovereign Property	Andrew Fyfe
Fire & Rescue Scotland	Alistair Perry
Independent Age	Gerry Kiernan
Eat Well Age Well	Tilly Robinson-Miles
Scottish Association of Social Work	Joanne Savage
University of Edinburgh	Barabora Skarabella
Royal Voluntary Service	Sarah Murray
British Geriatric Society	Sally Greenbrook
Vegetarian for Life	Kim Stringer
Life Changes Trust	Andrena Coburn
SOPA	Theresa Casey, Diana Findley
International Foundation for Integrated Care (Scotland)	Dr Anne Hendry
Older People's Champion Borders	Elaine Thornton-Nicol
RNIB	Laura Jones
Age Scotland	Ashleigh deVerteuil
ROSPA	Charlene McAvoy
Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber	Margaret Simpson
Scottish Pensioners Forum	Eileen Cawley
Trust Housing	Rohini Sharma
Generations Working Together	Alison Clyde
Befriending Network	Muriel Mowat
Action on Hearing Loss	Rae Cahill
Church of Scotland	Murdo McDonald
Action on Elder Abuse Scotland	Lesley Carcary
Care Inspectorate	Arvind Salwan
Outside the Box	Anne Connor, & Christine Ryder
Scottish Parliament MSP's Assistant	Amanda Gordon

1. Welcome

Sandra White welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from: Paul Eadie, Karen Mechan, Laura Airey, Alan Gow, Penny Morriss, Moira Bayne, Beverly Roberts, Fiona McLeod, Anne, Paul Comley, Anna Buchanan & Ross Laird.

2. Scottish Parliamentary Policy on Inclusion

Sandra reminded the group about the policy.

3. Appointment of Office Bearers

Jeremy Balfour overseen the appointment of the office bearers. Sandra White MSP was elected as the chair, Jeremy Balfour elected as the vice chair, Amanda Gordon elected as the treasurer and Outside the Box was elected to undertake secretariat of the Group.

4. Note of previous meeting

The note of the CPG on Older People, Age and Ageing meeting held on the 10th June 2020 was accepted as accurate.

5. Matters Arising

No matters arising were noted.

6. Requests for Membership to Group

The following organisations were accepted as members:

- Independent Age
- Scottish Fire & Rescue
- Agile Scotland
- Sovereign Property Partnership
- Voluntary Centre East Ayrshire

7. Topics for Meetings

December – Question & Answer session with Christina McKelvie MSP – Minister for Older People & Equalities.

Ideas for Questions to Minister

- Feeding into other groups eg for Women
- The Centre for Ageing Better & Ireland funding models
- Update/overview of the Older People's framework from Government perspective: CPG members may know what is happening in their own area.

March - Pension Credits – Try to get a MP and Anne McLaughlin.

8. Presentation

Professor Anne Hendry, Director, International Foundation for Integrated Care (Scotland) & Deputy Honorary Secretary for British Geriatrics Society spoke about the WHO Decade of Action on Healthy Ageing 2020-2030 – where does Scotland stand on the 4 priorities?

A round table discussion took place on 28th August, the paper is available on the website. It had a Scotland focus but also brought in speakers from across the work including Catherine McGuigan from the Age Friendly programme in Ireland, who have become the first country to be recognised as an age friendly country.

The 4 global priorities are:

- **Changing how we think, feel & act towards age & ageing** – very much about human rights & advocacy. Scotland is strong at ensuring that older people's voices are being heard through the different groups, eg SOPA, SPF. Less clear was the concerted, collaborative sharing the learning. Nuggets but it is patchy and differs across the country.
- **Ensuring our communities foster the abilities of older people** – very much about age friendly communities and healthy ageing.
- **Delivering integrated health & care services responsive to older people**
- **Providing access to long term care for older people who need it**

Started to look at 5 practical actions that we could do that are not too expensive:

- A Cross party commitment to support the WHO decade of Healthy Ageing, acknowledge its vital contribution to a stronger, fairer, more equal Scotland that is a great place to grow old.
- Establish a Healthy Ageing Collaborative to co-ordinate collective action on wellbeing in later life and rapidly share practices that can be adapted & implemented across Scotland.
- Build a social movement on healthy ageing and a positive narrative on the contributions of older citizens to community resilience, solidarity & wellbeing across the life course.

- Invest to save by scaling up evidence informed, community & voluntary sector support to build the five ways to wellbeing in later life: Connect; Be Active; Take Notice; Keep Learning; Give
- Facilitate knowledge exchange with the Centre for Ageing Better & international networks, the international network on healthy ageing.

We are interested in Showcasing Scotland and learning from others across the globe in difficult circumstances with not a lot of money.

Sandra thanked Anne and agreed that we do need to look internationally. Sandra will send the Minister the slides from the meeting. The Older People's Strategic Forum is in its infancy & the role of older woman and caring responsibilities could it be brought up in the Minister women's & girls' advisory group as this could be flagged up as an issue. Sandra will raise.

CPG would be a great vehicle, lots of great groups but they don't seem to get together, how did they manage to do it in Ireland? The Centre for Ageing Better is lottery funded & that is their remit to do that. Ireland was initially funded by philanthropic money what it became apartment that was a good return on investment so now fully funded by National & local government & third sector. They run at a local level but come together at a National level to share information. All the great work is done in local communities but a light touch is needed to bring them all together at a National level.

Also spoke about how community groups are funded, in Ireland they have infrastructure capacity building funding which is about sharing the learning so every group doesn't have to face the same issues when it is already been solved by others.

Compassionate communities, activities & the impact on mental wellbeing, community resilience, ensuring equality & inclusion for everyone. Sandra suggested that we come back to this subject again in the future.

AOCB

Laura Gallagher, TV licensing exemptions if living in sheltered housing is not very well publicised. Eileen Cawley added that a campaign organisation in England are adamant that older people should refuse to pay; here in Scotland we are not advocating that but encouraging people to apply for pension credit. SPF are still campaigning on this issue and Ms McKelvie MSP has written to the culture minister. Sandra added that in recent days it may now have been decriminalised.

Elaine Thornton-Nicol - Pension credit – the societal, local economy impact is life changing, it could put up to £60 a week into people's pockets. I will find a link for this and one for the decriminalisation of the TV license and will send them to Christine to forward on.

Gerry Kiernan – Independent Age have done a lot of research into under claimed pension credits. Gerry will send links to be forwarded on.

UK Malnutrition awareness week – Eat well Age Well will be publishing the findings and holding a webinar on 5th October. Will send to Christine to circulate the details.

Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 16th December 2018, 13.00 to 14.00 via Microsoft Teams.

The topic for the meeting will be a question & answer session with the Minister.